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Statement submitted by World Jewellery Confederation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through its work, with special emphasis on grass-roots projects in the jewellery and gemstone sectors. Involving several partners, it calls for transparency and inclusiveness, and strengthening local and global partnerships. Thus CIBJO has addressed areas of quality education (SDG 4), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7), economic growth (SDG 8), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12), life below water (SDG14) to name a few, understanding that all 17 SDGs are interrelated.

CIBJO's strategy has been developing educational programmes, initiate and/or supporting industry efforts, and creating tools and platforms for member organisations in their respective countries. The underlying premise of this approach is that progress will result from an aggregation of multiple grass-roots efforts, echoing the 2018 ECOSOC High-Level Segment theme "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities."

CIBJO runs series of educational programmes, with the goal of enhancing socially responsible business practices, and instilling an ethos of creating sustainable social and economic opportunity for all stakeholders along the chain of distribution. These include workshops on ecologically responsible aquafarming; ethical gold mining, diamond and coloured gemstone supply chain integrity, and grass roots sustainability projects. Since 2013 it has managed the programme in conjunction with the Italian Exhibition Group (IEG), a leading industry trade fair organiser.

Among the specialized tools and platforms that CIBJO created is the Jewellery Industry Greenhouse Gas Measurement Initiative, which helps companies understand, reduce and offset their carbon footprints.

CIBJO has supported grass-roots initiatives for small and medium-sized enterprises, including small-scale mining organisations meeting rigorous Fairtrade standards on working conditions, child labour, women's rights, clean technology, health and safety, organisational management, democratic decision-making, transparency, traceability and responsible environmental management.

A recent development has involved voluntary initiatives, such as the Jewellery Summit, which groups together individuals, companies and organisations to create programmes that, in time, may create significant and sustainable opportunities out in the field. One of these involves a rutilated quartz mine in Brazil that seeks to implement a model using natural resources as the foundation for sustainable development. Another is a Jewellery Development Index (JDI), which was sponsored by U. S. State Department, and now is housed at the University of Delaware.

CIBJO has also liaised with government and international organisations, such as the European Community and OECD, about developing grassroots jewellery and gemstone enterprises as means of achieving national and international development goals.

On June 2017, the CIBJO President joined a high-level delegation from the Republic of Fiji at the Oceans Conference at the United Nations in New York, to outline and promote the development of a sustainable pearl farming sector in Fiji. It includes responsibly managed marine pearling areas that also create income-generating opportunities for indigenous communities.

Through these initiatives and measuring the progress of local efforts, including indigenous needs, CIBJO has learned that building inclusive, resilient, competitive and sustainable communities is fundamental for achieving the SDGs by 2030.